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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/681,062	WALKO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Wilson Lee	2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 12/16/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-37.
3. The drawings filed on 10/8/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

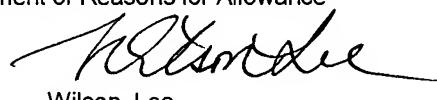
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 5/18/04, 12/9/04
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.



Wilson Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2821

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 38-49 are canceled.

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 38 to 49 non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 38-49 have been cancelled.

Allowable subject matter

Claims 1-37 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art neither discloses nor suggests the following limitations, in combination with the remaining elements disclosed in claims 1 and 22:

- the bridge transmits a link claim to the first and second lighting control subnets after waiting for a backoff time after the RF signal has ended, transmits a command to the first lighting control subnet with respect to the first lighting device, assigns a random wait time to the first lighting control subnet, and assigns a maximum random wait time to the second lighting control subnet, and receives an acknowledgement from the first lighting control subnet such as required by claim 1;

- the steps of transmitting a link claim to the first and second lighting control subnets from a bridge, wherein the link claim directs the first and second lighting control

subnets to wait for a lighting control command; assigning a random wait time to the first lighting control subnet, assigning a maximum random wait time to the second lighting control subnet, and receiving an acknowledgement from the first lighting control subnet such as required by claim 22.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Alt et al. (5,254,908) cited in IDS discloses a microprocessor signals the relay circuits via data bus after an appropriate delay to energize lighting systems but fails to disclose that assigning a random wait time to the first lighting control subnet and assigns a maximum random wait time to the second lighting control subnet, and receiving an acknowledgement from the first lighting control subnet.

Belliveau (6,459,217) discloses a method and apparatus with multi-parameter light fixtures comprising a packet choosing a random backoff factor which determines the amount of time. Badger et al. (5,886,647) discloses a wireless remote control multiple devices comprising a random delay being introduced between the receipt of the incoming message and the broadcast of the outgoing message to minimize the probability of correlating the output signal with the input signal. Pezzolo et al.

(4,755,792) discloses a security control system comprising the devices being programmed to execute a randomly generated time delay before retransmission is attempted. The cited prior arts fail to disclose the claimed invention.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Wilson Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1824.

Papers related to Technology Center 2800 applications may be submitted to Technology Center 2800 by facsimile transmission. Any transmission not to be considered an official response must be clearly marked "DRAFT". The official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Wilson Lee
Primary Examiner
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office